



Important Change to Your Health Insurance for January 2015

Generic Drug Substitution: In an effort to control drug costs, which represent 81% of all claims to the health insurance plan, beginning January 2015, for all active teachers covered by the Industrial Alliance health insurance plan, a new generic drug substitution programme will be in effect.

What is a generic drug? A generic drug is a copy of a brand name product. Generic drugs contain the same medicinal ingredients as the brand name drug, and are considered bioequivalent. There may be many generic versions of the same drug.

Is there a difference in quality? The quality standards for brand name drugs and generic drugs are the same. The ingredients, manufacturing processes and facilities for all drugs must meet the federal guidelines for Good Manufacturing Standards. As well, all drug manufacturers must perform a series of tests, both during and after production, to show that every drug batch made meets the requirements for that product.

Are generic drugs safe? Yes! Health Canada is responsible for evaluating generic drugs for their safety, effectiveness and quality. The process for evaluating drug products is constantly being improved and updated to keep up with international standards of regulatory approval.

Can I still choose to purchase a “brand name” drug? Yes! Your choice of drug will not be affected. However, the amount that you are reimbursed will be based on the RAMQ regulations. You will receive 68% of the cost of the “name brand” drug as compared to the 80% reimbursement you receive currently.

What if the “name brand” drug is medically required? In rare instances where a “name brand” drug is medically required, your doctor will be required to fill out a form justifying its use. In such cases the health insurance plan will reimburse 80% of the cost of such a drug .

Example:

Medication Type	Price	Reimbursement as of January 2015	Medically Required Name Brand Drug
Name Brand	\$100	\$68 @68%	\$80 @80%
Generic	\$50	\$40 @80%	NA